(c) The NGOs are not required to intimate the Ministry of Home Affairs about the funds or material collected by them and the utilization thereof in the first instance. These organizations are, however, required to file their accounts and or returns to the appropriate authorities where they are registered.

Recommendation of National Advisory Council (NAC)

*315. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister fo RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Advisory Council (NAC) has recommended any special programme with regard to rural development to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have submitted any action plan or status report on rural development to the NAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The National Advisory Council (NAC) have made recommendations to the Government relating to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Watershed Development Programmes and National Rural Roads Programme. The National Employment Guarantee Act envisages to provide a legal guarantee for atleast 100 days of employment, to begin with, asset creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in every poor rural/urban and lower middle class household. In the interim, a massive Food for Work Programme will be started.

2. Under the Watershed Development the NAC has recommended the following:

* the Programmes for the rehabilitation of degraded lands to be implemented in Mission Mode;
* to intergrate Watershed Development Programmes with the on-going Food for Work Programme (FWP);
* urgent identification of the degraded areas and to evolve mechanisms to select competent NGOs for social mobilization and institution building at the watershed level;
* revision in the guidelines to ensure equity and integration of the interventions by various Ministries;

* evolve systems for Village Communities to develop a stake in the conservation of resources;
* PRIs to be empowered to charge and collect water and electricity rates from the farmers;
* training to be imparted at all levels as well as to political functionaries from the Panchayats level upwards;
* putting in place mechanism for evaluation and monitoring, with greater involvement of Watershed Associations; and
* Self-Help Groups and User Groups in planning, execution and financial management.

3. For the National Rural Roads Programme being handled by the Ministry, the NAC has recommended that it requires higher quantum of funds either by increasing the budgetary allocation or by leveraging the Diesel Cess to raise funds.

4. The Government has already taken action on the recommendations of the NAC. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2004. The Bill has thereafter been referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha for its examination and recommendations.

5. The recommendations of the NAC have also been taken note of in implementation of the Watershed Development Programmes. The Panchayati Raj Institutions are empowered both financially and administratively in implementation of Watershed projects under Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP), Planning, execution & financial management of projects under the programmes are carried out through a participatory approach by Watershed Association, Self-Help Groups and User Groups. Monitoring & Evaluation is carried out through constitution of State & District Vigilance Committees, The Gram Panchayats are empowered to impose User charges on User Groups for use of common utilities like Water for Irrigation from Water Tanks/Ponds, grazing from community pastures, etc. A provisions has been made in the guidelines for community mobilization & training of all concerned functionaries and elected representatives at the district, block and village levels. A provision has also been made for involving good NGOs for the purpose of capacity building and training.

6. A National Food for Work Programme has been launched in 150 identified most backward districts of the country w.e.f. November 2004, with the objective to provide additional resources for generation of supplementary wage employment and providing food-security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The Programme will focus on water conservation, drought-proofing and land development as a first priority.

7. Additional funds on account of additional cess on Diesel have become available from 2005-2006. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have approved loans to assist the PMGSY programme. Action has also been initiated to explore additional sources of funding in consultation with Planning Commission and Finance Ministry.

Construction of homes in rural and semi-rural areas

*316. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes that are under implementation for the construction of homes in the rural and semi-rural areas;

(b) the cost involved in the construction of each unit; and

(c) the total allocation made for this and the details of utilisation made?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is implemented in the rural areas of all the States/Union Territories except Delhi and Chandigarh. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) rural households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe BPL families. Minimum 60% of the funds are to be allotted to SCs/STs BPL families and upto 40% for other BPL families. Since 1999-2000, upgradation of kutcha house is also allowed under the IAY. The cost of the Scheme is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25

(b) The ceiling on construction assistance under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and from Rs. 22,000/- to Rs. 27,500/- for the hilly/difficult areas with effect from 1.4.2004. The upper limit in respect of upgradation of unserviceable kutcha house has also been increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,500/- for all areas.